

VERDUN DRIVE
APPARENTLY
IS AT AN END

Sunday Passed Without an Infantry Attack Being Carried Out, According to Paris — French Carried Out Small Operation Last Night

DUTCH-BELGIAN
FRONTIER REOPENED

Turks Report That the British Suffered Heavy Losses and Were Driven Back to Protection of Ship in Gulf of Aden

A pronounced pause has come in the German offensive against Verdun, according to Paris. Sunday passed without infantry advances and the German crown prince's troops did not leave the trenches at any point last night. A small engagement occurred in Lepet forest on the left bank of the Moselle, to the east of the St. Mihiel salient, where the French report penetrating 200 yards of trenches and withdrawing after destroying the German saps. French aviators bombarded the railroad station at Conflans, where fires were seen to break out. Reports come from Dutch sources that the Dutch-Belgian frontier, which has been closed for several weeks coincident with the Verdun offensive, has been reopened at one point. This is commented on in Holland, according to a news agency dispatch through London, as probably indicating that the Germans consider their offensive near an end.

In Arabia, according to Constantinople, the British force trying to advance inland from the Gulf of Aden was driven back by the Turks to the protection of the ships in the gulf.

French Official Report.

Paris, March 13.—"There was no infantry fighting last night in the region north of Verdun," according to the announcement of the progress of hostilities made by the French war office this afternoon. "There has been, however, continued artillery activity along all this front."

FOUR MINES SPRUNG.

British Claim They Had Few Casualties Therefrom.

London, March 13.—The British war office communication issued last night says: "The enemy to-day sprang four mines near the Hohenzollern redoubt and grenade fighting. There were very few casualties and very little damage was done to our trenches."

"Our trenches about Loos and the Bois de Grenier were shelled. There have been heavy artillery bombardments by both sides about Ypres."

ESTIMATING BRITISH LOSSES.

Turks Say They Dropped at Least 5,000 at Fahlah.

Berlin, via wireless, March 13.—The losses of the British forces in Mesopotamia in the recent battle near Fahlah are estimated by the Turkish war office as at least 5,000.

BULGAR-RUMANIA CLASH.

There are Said to Have Been Many Casualties.

London, March 13.—An engagement is reported to have taken place on the Danube between Rumanians and Bulgarians near the town of Rahovo, says the Daily Mail's Odessa correspondent. A Bulgarian frontier guard is said to have fired upon a Rumanian ship which was loading another vessel in Rumanian waters.

"The Bulgarians signalled an Austrian gunboat," the correspondent adds, "which ordered the Rumanian vessel to the Bulgarian shore. They refused to comply, whereupon the gunboat opened fire with machine guns and rifles. Rumanian troops replied to the fire. There were many casualties on both sides."

FAUVETTE STRUCK MINE.

British Mercantile Fleet Auxiliary Was Sunk.

London, March 13.—It was officially announced at the British admiralty yesterday that the mercantile fleet auxiliary Fauvette has been sunk by striking a mine off the east coast of England. Fourteen members of the crew were lost. The admiralty statement says:

"His Majesty's mercantile fleet auxiliary Fauvette has struck a mine off the east coast and has sunk. Casualties: Two officers and 12 men. The Fauvette was formerly in the service of the General Steam Navigation company, limited, of London. The vessel was built at Middlesbrough in 1912. She was 315 feet long, 43 feet beam, and 18 feet deep."

CARRANZA HINTED
AT WAR WITH AMERICA

But Said Also That He Wouldn't Permit United States Entry Into Mexico Before Reciprocal Right Was Given.

Mexico, March 13.—General Carranza last night issued a manifesto to the nation declaring that under no circumstances would the Mexican government grant the right to the United States to violate Mexican territory by sending in an armed force in pursuit of Villa without consent and the reciprocal privilege being first obtained and admitted. Word was sent to the confidential agent of the Mexican government in Washington to make immediate representation to this effect.

General Carranza says in his manifesto: "I am sure that I interpret in this matter the national sentiment and that the Mexican people will comply in a dignified manner with their duty, be the sacrifices what they may, to sustain their rights and sovereignty if, unfortunately, this drags us into a war—a war which the United States can never justify. We will not be responsible for the disastrous consequences. Upon the heads of the traitorous Mexicans, who within and without this country have labored to produce this result, will fall the inexorable justice of the people."

The full text of General Carranza's manifesto follows: "Because of the assault which Francisco Villa and the bandits who accompanied him made on the town of Columbus, in American territory, burning houses and killing some of the inhabitants, soldiers as well as civilians, the international situation in these moments is very delicate. The northern American press have excited this people against Mexico, and the government of that country has discussed the situation in the American Congress, members of which advised intervention."

"The constitutional government, which I have the honor to represent, is also occupied diligently in an effort to solve this delicate situation, trying at all costs to maintain the dignity and sovereignty of Mexico, and we yet hope that this lamentable incident may be decorously arranged, and that there will be no reason for international conflict."

"I have addressed the government of the United States, through the foreign office, stating that the invasion of Villa has historical precedents, as in the years 1880 and 1886, two parties of Indians, coming from the United States invaded Sonora and Chihuahua, committing crimes and depredations on the lives and properties of Mexicans."

"It was then agreed between the governments of the two countries to permit the respective passage of armed forces, resulting in the extermination of the Indians. I have asked the American government to pursue a like course in order to solve future difficulties, should they arise, noting that Villa and his companions are a group of bandits whose acts the Mexican government or people would not be responsible for any instigations of the reactionary element, that, lacking patriotism and convinced of its defeat, is trying by all means to bring on armed intervention."

"I have not yet received the answer of the American government and from the reports of my chiefs along the frontier, I learn that the American forces are mobilizing, to pursue and capture and deliver him to the Mexican authorities; that the expedition is in the nature of punitive campaign, and that the sovereignty of Mexico will be respected."

"The constitutional government has given instructions to its confidential agent at Washington immediately to make representations that under no circumstances will any motive, be the reason or explanations of the United States what they may, justify the arms invasion of Mexican territory without reciprocal rights being granted to the Mexicans, and that not for an instant will the invasion of Mexico territory or an outrage to its dignity be tolerated."

"I am sure that in this I interpret the national sentiment and that the Mexican people will worthily comply with their duty, be the sacrifices what they may, to sustain their rights and sovereignty. If, unfortunately, we are dragged into a war which the United States never can justify, we will not be responsible for the disastrous consequences, but will serve as instruments for Mexico traitors within and without our country, who have labored long to produce this result, and upon their heads will fall the inexorable justice of the Mexican people."

MUNITIONS PLANTS RUSHING.
Turning Out Large Orders for United States Government.

Philadelphia, March 13.—Four of the largest munition plants in this section are working on rush orders for steel shells and rifles for the United States government, according to statements made here by officials of these companies, who added that they are in a position to supply the further needs of this country without interfering with their foreign orders.

The Remington Arms company, it was stated, is making 2,000,000 rifles for the army; the Eddystone Ammunition corporation 2,500,000 shells and the Baldwin Locomotive company, 1,000,000 steel forgings, while the Midvale Steel & Ordnance company is also working on large orders for the United States in addition to its foreign contracts.

BARREL OF ACID EXPLODES.
Showering Firemen with Flames as They Fought \$550,000 Fire.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 13.—Fire, said to have been caused by a dust explosion, virtually destroyed the fertilizer plant of the International Agricultural corporation here yesterday. The loss is estimated at \$550,000.

Although the main buildings were burned to the ground the fire lasted less than an hour. Barrels of acids and other chemicals exploded in rapid succession sending showers of burning liquid on the firemen and compelling them to fight the blaze at a distance.

Seven employees who were in the building when the first explosion occurred, were slightly burned.

GRANT
ENTRY
RIGHT

Carranza Will Be Given Permission to Come into the United States in Pursuit of Bandits Only on Condition That United States Troops Are Insufficient

CARRANZA'S ATTITUDE
GIVES LITTLE CONCERN

But the Attitude of the People of Mexico to Entry of American Troops Is Causing Some Anxiety — War Department Professes to Have No Definite News

Washington, D. C., March 13.—The United States will reply to General Carranza's request for reciprocal arrangements for crossing of troops at the Mexican border late to-day after Secretary Lansing has conferred with President Wilson. It was indicated that the Carranza proposal will be accepted.

The war department was still without advice early to-day as to whether American troops had crossed into Mexico. Secretary of War Baker said he had not heard of any crossing and reiterated his promise to make the news public as soon as received. He added that the morning's dispatches contained nothing of importance that could be given out.

The acceptance of the Carranza proposal probably will be made on the ground that Carranza troops may cross into American territory in pursuit of bandits any time the American forces are not present in sufficient numbers. It will be pointed out that the inability of the Carranza troops to handle the situation in northern Mexico is the sole reason for the entry of American soldiers.

In that way the officials expect that the situation will be relieved of its chief menacing feature. They expressed the view to-day that a great deal of unnecessary pessimism exists as to Carranza's attitude. As to the attitude of the Mexican people themselves, however, that is some concern.

WATER SUPPLY GONE.
COULDN'T FIGHT FIRE

Quarters at Monterey, Cal., Just Vacated By U. S. Troops Bound for Mexico Were Destroyed To-day.

Monterey, Cal., March 13.—The headquarters building of the Monterey presidio was destroyed by fire early to-day a few hours after it had been vacated by troops of the first cavalry, who left for the Mexican border. The firemen, in attempting to extinguish the flames, found the water supply had been shut off at its force.

NAVAL RECRUITS MOVED.

1,500 Sent from Newport, R. I., to Lake Bluff, Ill., Because of Measles.

Chicago, March 13.—On account of an epidemic of the measles at the naval training station at Newport, R. I., most of the recruits there will be transferred to the naval station at Lake Bluff, Ill., arriving, the statement is made here, to-day. It is said that about 1,500 recruits will be transferred from Newport.

TRYING TO FORCE INTERVENTION.

Is the Way a Mexican City Newspaper Characterizes the Movement.

Mexico City, March 13.—The news of the attack on Columbus by Villa and his followers was first made public here yesterday when the official organ E. Pueblo published the text of a note of the Mexican government asking the government at Washington to permit the passage of Mexican soldiers into American territory, if such became necessary in the pursuit of Villa, and at the same time, granting to the United States the reciprocal privilege of entering Mexican territory for the same purpose.

Under the caption "The Columbus Case—Rogues of natives and foreigners," El Pueblo says editorially: "The infamous and traitorous work of reactionaries in the United States has finally reached its most abhorrent point. Because they were impotent to stem the military and political triumphs of constitutionalism, they have tried to force armed intervention by the United States in the affairs of Mexico, in an endeavor to regain their lost power."

VILLA FORCES SCATTERED.

According to Reports Received at Columbus, N. M.

Columbus, N. M., March 13.—Reports multiplied here yesterday that Francisco Villa is disintegrating the force of 1,500 to 2,500 men whom he used to support or to make the Columbus raid last Thursday.

American military authorities said that possibly it would have been advisable to go after Villa Thursday when his raiders fled southward. They were then demoralized and were dropping loot and war material before attacks of 50 men under Maj. Frank Tompkins. Requests of Col. Herbert Slocum, commanding the 13th cavalry here, and of Major Tompkins to be allowed to renew the pursuit Friday with a larger force, were denied pending the organization of the large punitive expedition.

Yesterday it was stated that this expedition, owing to inadequate railroad facilities, and the widely scattered position of the troops necessary to constitute it, who have been on patrol duty, might require several days' preparation before it could enter Mexico, at least from this point.

Meanwhile, reports from Mexican sources that Villa apparently was carrying out a plan to elude pursuit by breaking up his forces into small bands and hiding among the mountains. Some of his forces were reported to be approaching the Sonora state border. Others were said to be making this way southward and southeastward toward the mountains of San Gerónimo district, from which the bandit chieftain started March 1, with the announced intention of invading the United States.

Colonel Slocum said he had been advised that the first squadron of the 13th cavalry had been ordered to rejoin the regiment. The 13th, on account of its exploit Thursday in beating off an overwhelming number of Mexicans after a stiff fight in which they inflicted possibly 15 times the number of their own casualties, is said to have been assigned to the duty of taking Villa's direct trail. But owing to the exigencies of the patrol duty to which the army has been assigned ever since the outbreak of the Madero revolution in 1910, the regiment has had on duty here only two-thirds of its strength. The first squadron, under Lieut.-Col. T. River, has been stationed at Marfa, Texas, more than 250 miles east of here, and assigned to patrol a stretch of territory 85 miles in extent. It might be several days before this squadron will be assembled here.

It appears to be the opinion of military men here that when Villa is found and pushed on both sides he will not stand and fight.

Although Villa's strength in the battle here was estimated from 1,500 to 2,500 men, Capt. Rudolph Smyser and Capt. George Williams, who participated in the pursuit, described his retreat as precipitate. Prisoners captured declared that the bandits were stricken by fear, although they displayed the meager force of 30 with which Tompkins entered Mexico Thursday, they made a stand with 900 men.

E. B. Stone, special agent of the department of justice, was advised yesterday that the six wounded Villa soldiers held as prisoners would be turned over by the military authorities to the state courts of New Mexico for trial on charges of having murdered the nine civilians slain here Thursday. It had been Stone's intention to file charges of murder against the bandits in the United States court or the district of New Mexico.

It was suggested that the state authorities would also indict Villa on charges of a murder and formally demand his extradition.

Although the Villa trail is getting colder every day, army officers expressed confidence in their ability finally to apprehend him.

Francisco Miranda, one of the Mexican prisoners, was sent to Fort Bliss yesterday on the assumption of a gangrene leg. Officers of the medical corps here are making strenuous efforts to save Jesus Reyes, the 12-year-old boy who was wounded among the Villa raiders during the fight. His left hip was shattered.

It was announced that the two squadrons, numbering about 1,000 men, of the 12th cavalry, under Capt. H. G. Sickel, who were ordered from Ft. Robinson, Neb., yesterday, will take the place of the 13th cavalry in posts here. One squadron of the 12th is at Panama.

PERSHING TO LEAD
PUNITIVE EXPEDITION

Reports from San Antonio Seem to Indicate That United States Troops Are Already in Pursuit.

San Antonio, Tex., March 13.—No movement of the expeditionary force which will reach Villa is probable to-day. Major General Funston announced. The general said that preparations for the expedition were going on despite Carranza's notification to the Washington government regarding the entrance of U. S. troops into this country. It was officially announced that Brigadier General John J. Pershing will command the expeditionary force.

General Funston said he had received no notification from Washington to hold back the expedition while negotiations are being completed with Carranza.

KEPT INFORMED BY RADIO.

President Wilson Returned To-day from Yachting Trip.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—President Wilson reached home to-day from his week-end trip on the Mayflower, prepared to take up the Mexican questions. He had been kept advised of all the developments by radio during his absence.

CARRANZA LEADER CONFERS.

Comes to El Paso to Talk It Over with Gen. Pershing.

El Paso, Tex., March 13.—General Gabriel Gavira, commanding the Carranza forces at Juarez, came here this morning for a conference with General Pershing.

KILLED WHILE COASTING.

John H. Foutier, 10, Struck Automobile at New Bedford.

New Bedford, Mass., March 13.—John H. Foutier, 10-year-old son of Robert R. Foutier of this city, was almost instantly killed yesterday when the sled on which he and his brother were coasting crashed into an automobile. Young Foutier's skull was fractured, but his brother escaped injury. The driver of the automobile saw the boys too late to avoid a collision.

MILL STRIKE
CALLED OFF

New Bedford Workers Will Return to Places on Tuesday

TEXTILE COUNCIL
MEETS TO-NIGHT

End of Trouble Followed a Conference Yesterday Afternoon

New Bedford, Mass., March 13.—The strike at the Gosnell mill was declared off following a conference yesterday afternoon between the mill management and all the secretaries of the textile unions. The strikers will resume work Tuesday morning. The textile council will meet to-night and formally ratify the agreement.

The mill management agreed to take back nearly all of the striking slasher tenders and warp twisters, whose lock-out was the principal cause of the general strike being called at the mill.

NO STRIKE VOTE TAKEN.

But Employees of New England Railroads Want Wages Raised.

Boston, March 13.—Demands for a general increase of 15 per cent in pay, time and a half for all overtime work and a minimum wage of \$2.25 a day have been made on all New England railroads by the Eastern Federation of Railway Clerks, it was announced at union headquarters here last night. No strike vote has been taken, it was said, but committees have presented demands upon the New York, New Haven & Hartford, the Boston & Maine, the Boston & Albany, the Boston & Maine Central and the Central New England roads.

CARGO SHIP AFIRE.

Explosion of a Lantern Is Said to Have Been Cause.

St. John, N. B., March 13.—The British steamer Matatus, which was about to leave for New Zealand fully loaded, was found to be on fire yesterday in one of her forward holds. She was at anchor off Sand Point, but was immediately towed back to the dock, and three tugs and the local fire department poured in a dozen streams into the hold. Shortly before low water the steamer's bow dropped until it rested on the bottom.

Because of the presence of a lot of calcium carbide in the forward hold there was much difficulty in getting the fire under control. Streams of water were still being poured into the ship at midnight.

An explosion of a lantern left in the hold by workmen supposed to have started the fire, though the cause has not been fully determined.

The value of the cargo, which includes 500 automobiles, steel rails, provisions and general goods, is estimated at \$600,000.

The steamer is of 4,179 tons. She was built in 1904 in Belfast, Ireland, and is owned by the New Zealand line, which has headquarters in Liverpool. It is believed that the vessel is not seriously damaged and that she will be repaired after her cargo is removed.

DEATH CASE CONSIDERED.

Vermont Industrial Accident Board Met in Barre.

The Vermont industrial accident board met in Barre this afternoon to consider the case of estate of Richard Halsall against Marr & Gordon. All members of the board, R. W. Simonds of St. Johnsbury, Sanford E. Daniels of Brattleboro and Fred S. Pease of Burlington, with Miss Laura Burbank, clerk, were present. It was thought that the board would adjourn from the office of McAllister & Kent to the law office of S. Hollister Jackson, where there are ample facilities for the accommodation of a large number of witnesses asked to testify.

Richard Halsall, a stone worker, died on the night of Jan. 5, 1916. In the allegation made by the estate it is claimed that the man's demise was due to emphysema, induced by injuries alleged to have been received in the Granite street plant of Marr & Gordon on the 15th of September, 1915. The defendant in the proceedings makes the rejoinder that pleurisy was the cause of death and that unnatural causes had no part in his demise. Among the witnesses expected to testify were: Dr. M. L. Chandler and Dr. O. G. Stickney of Barre, Dr. H. C. Tinkham of Burlington, subpoenaed to the hearing as an expert witness, Dr. J. W. Jackson, Alexander Gordon, Mrs. Richard Halsall, children of Mrs. Richard Halsall and employees of Marr & Gordon.

The Royal Indemnity Co. of New York and Marr & Gordon are represented in the proceedings by Attorney S. Hollister Jackson of Barre and Attorney A. T. Porteous of New York City.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Funeral services for Mrs. Eva Lane Jackson, who died at the home of her son, Calvin Jackson, in Orange Wednesday night after a two weeks' illness with pneumonia, were held at the church in Orange Center Saturday at noon. A short prayer service at the house preceded the services at the church. Rev. Amos Lord officiating at both services. Mrs. Edward Peake and Mrs. James Lord sang three selections. "It Is Well with My Soul," "Adequacy with Jesus" and "Abide with Me." The bearers were Calvin Jackson, James Dickey, Harold Jackson and Nelson Botson. Interment was in the family lot at Orange.

DEATH DUE TO OLD AGE.

Mrs. Laura Crafts Patterson Died This Morning, Aged 85.

Mrs. Laura Crafts Patterson passed away at the home of her grandson, E. B. Guyer, this morning at 7:40 o'clock, the end being due to a general breakdown incident to old age. Three weeks ago, while visiting at the home of her sister in Norwood, N. Y., Mrs. Patterson suffered a slight shock. Relatives accompanied her home to Barre and thereafter her condition gradually grew worse. She was not confined to her bed until Saturday. Mrs. Patterson is survived by her sister, Mrs. Julia Bailey of Norwood, N. Y., and three grandchildren, E. B. Guyer, Miss Hazel Guyer and Ferny Patterson, the latter living in California. Surviving also are three great-grandchildren, Bernice Fisher, Lester Guyer and Helen Guyer.

Mrs. Patterson was born in Craftsbury Aug. 14, 1830, her maiden name being Miss Laura C. Mason. She was married to John Patterson in Craftsbury in 1854. Mr. Patterson's death occurred in Barre three years ago. Mrs. Patterson had been a resident of this city for nearly 32 years.

THREE FUNERALS HELD.

H. H. Hollister's and Kenneth McDonald's Saturday; John Forbes' on Sunday.

The funeral of Horace H. Hollister, who passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. J. Clapp of 135 Washington street early Wednesday morning, was held at the house Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. J. B. Reardon, pastor of the Universalist church, officiating. The bearers were: W. J. Clapp, Dwight H. Hollister, Dr. R. Gibson Perry and O. K. Hollister. The remains were taken to the Hollister family cemetery on Hollister hill in Marshfield, where the Masonic services were used at the graveside.

The funeral of Kenneth McDonald, who passed away at his home on Trow hill Thursday morning, was held at the house Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. E. F. Newell, pastor of the Hedding Methodist church, was the officiating clergyman and the bearers were: Rodger Campbell, John McRae, William Furey and Louis Gay, all of Barre Town. There were several fine floral tributes. Interment was made in the Wilson cemetery at South Barre.

Funeral services for John Forbes, whose death occurred at his home, 26 Merchant street, Thursday afternoon after a long illness, were held at the house Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Edgar Crossland, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, officiating. The bearers were chosen from Clan Gordon, the Modern Woodmen and the Granitecutters' union, to which organization the deceased belonged. They were: James R. Coutts and John McDonald from Clan Gordon, John McDonald and J. J. J. representing the Granitecutters, and James Walker and A. R. Gooch of Granite City camp, M. W. of A. During the services, William Stewart sang two selections. The remains were placed in the tomb at Elmwood.

WAS CIVIL WAR VETERAN.

George L. McBride Died Yesterday at His Home in Burlington.

Burlington, March 13.—George Landon McBride died yesterday morning at his home at 119 North Willard street, the cause of his death being hardening of the arteries. Mr. McBride suffered a partial shock four weeks ago while driving to this city from Colchester and since that time had been confined to his bed.

Mr. McBride was born on July 11, 1841, at South Hero, the son of Margaret Neil and William McBride, and was therefore in the 75th year of his age. In 1845 he went with his parents to reside in Colchester and lived there, with the exception of the time he was at the front, until he came to this city in November of 1908. He married Emma Wickware on April 2, 1867, and to them nine children were born, of whom seven survive. They are Charles of Essex Junction, George of Burlington, Mrs. P. M. Wright of Colchester, Mrs. M. P. Orvis of Hinesburg, Mrs. B. P. Roberts of Chugwater, Wyo., and Mrs. C. M. Henderson of Jeffersonville. Mrs. Frances E. Stevens died in March, 1906, and F. L. McBride died in April, 1906. Mr. McBride is also survived by 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. McBride was a veteran of the Civil war.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE.

Gov. Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania Would Like to Be President.

Philadelphia, March 13.—Gov. Martin G. Brumbaugh, in response to a letter from Henry C. Wasson, Republican national committeeman from Pennsylvania, urging that he be a candidate for the presidential nomination, last night made public his reply accepting the invitation. Mr. Brumbaugh's name will, accordingly, be placed on the presidential preferential ballot to be voted in the primary election on May 16.

In his letter Mr. Wasson, who was elected to the national committee by the followers of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912, urged the governor to assume a leadership in a movement to secure a delegation to the Republican national convention which would be acceptable to the Progressives as well as the Republicans. Political leaders believe that the governor's announcement presages a fight in the Republican primary between Gov. Brumbaugh and United States Senator Boies Penrose for the control of the delegation from this state.

FUNERAL OF MRS. P. C. ABBEY

Was Held at Essex, with Burial in That Town.

Essex Junction, March 13.—The funeral of Mrs. P. C. Abbey, who died suddenly at her home Friday morning, was held at the Baptist church at Essex yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Mr. Bonnell of Jericho officiating. Bearers were her son, Bert Abbey; her grandson, Theodore Abbey; Charles Weed and Mr. Latham. Burial was in Essex.

"MOVIE" HOUSE
IN REAL FIRE

Store and a Dwelling at Webster-ville Were Also Destroyed To-day

LOSS ESTIMATED
AT ABOUT \$8,000

Wells, LaSasso Co. Quarry Property Seriously Endangered

A fire having its origin in the general store of Nicholas LaSasso in Webster-ville spread with such rapidity last night and this morning that the store, the Palace theatre, owned by Odile Gilbert of Granitville, and a dwelling house owned by LaSasso and occupied by the family of Louis Germaine were completely destroyed. Losses are variously estimated, but it is thought that the aggregate losses will not exceed \$8,000. It is understood that LaSasso carried \$4,000 on his store, \$1,200 on the dwelling house and \$2,000 is the amount of insurance, said to have been carried by Gilbert on the Palace theatre. Other property, principally buildings owned by the Wells-Lamson company, was endangered by the flames, as a high wind prevailed when the fire was at its height.

Appeals for assistance were sent to the Barre fire department and to East Barre. There were responses in each instance. Chief Gladding got a call at the local fire station shortly before midnight. Accompanied by Fireman Peter Purichelli and John Heney and Alto Mariani of the call department, the chief went to Websterville in a two-seated sleigh. The visiting firemen joined with others in saving property adjacent to the LaSasso and Gilbert premises, returning to Barre soon after 2 o'clock.

Mrs. Joseph Rock and her son, Alton, who reside across the street from the LaSasso property, discovered the fire at 11:40 o'clock. Mrs. Rock was awakened by the lurid glare of the flames and after she had awakened her son, the location of the blaze was ascertained. Fire was issuing from the front door and windows and within a few moments after young Rock had spread the alarm, the store building was in flames. A whistle at the Wells-Lamson quarry sent its warning message over a large area in Barre Town. The booming of the whistle was heard distinctly here in the city.

There were plenty of men to aid in fighting the flames, but lack of facilities retarded repeated attempts to keep the flames confined to the building where they originated. Very soon the little theatre was afire and the Germaine dwelling caught within a short time after the alarm was sounded. Melted snow and two hose lines, the latter from the Wells-Lamson quarry, were factors in keeping the fire from communicating to other buildings. The nearest building to the burned area that escaped the flames was the house occupied by Daniel Cameron, which is owned by the Wells-Lamson company. Household goods were removed from the Cameron building, and other persons rapidly followed suit. The house occupied by Alex. Biset was hurriedly emptied of its contents and every effort was made to keep the exterior dampened.

The store building was a two-story structure erected a year ago. LaSasso's general store occupied all of the ground floor, while the second story was used as a public hall. It is said that the store was opened for business Sunday evening, even though Sunday opening in Webster-ville, it is stated, is prohibited. Gilbert's Palace theatre, a motion picture house, was erected two years ago. It was one story high and so constructed as to burn rapidly. Much of the insurance on the burned property is carried in the Page agency of this city.

Mr. Gilbert's insurance was \$1,000 and he figures his loss about \$800 over and above that. He saved his moving picture machine but lost everything else. He plans to rebuild his motion picture house on the same lot, possibly a little larger, and will commence the work just as soon as the weather permits.

TWO FIRES IN SAME STORE.

Damage of Several Hundred Dollars Done at Middlebury.

Middlebury, March 13.—Fire that caused a loss of several hundred dollars broke out twice late Saturday night in the market of Frank Shackett, jr., in the Lawrence block on Main street. The blaze started in the office about 11 o'clock and was subdued by the use of chemicals.

During the fire boxes were thrown out into the street and after the blaze had been extinguished were again placed in the store. About 12:30 o'clock the fire again broke out, originating in these boxes, it is thought, and the department was again summoned and again put out the fire in a short time.

The damage to the building is estimated at about \$200. The other occupants of the building, J. F. Newk, who conducts a best and repair shop in the first floor and the Addison county C. O. O. F., who have the second floor, were damaged by smoke. Mr. Shackett has made arrangements to conduct his business from his house temporarily.

ORDER TO NATIONAL BANKS.

Calls For Report of Business Up to March 7.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—The comptroller of the currency to-day issued a call requiring national banks to report their condition at the close of business March 7.